

LIBRARY

MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1946,



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

T. LINDSAY. MB. CHB.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

H. BREARLEY. CERT. S.I.B. M.S.I.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,

MARKET HALL,

MEXBOROUGH. YORKS.

MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year ended December 31st, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the
MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to present my Annual Report on the health of the Mexborough Urban District for the year ended 31st, December, 1946.

NATURAL and SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Mexborough is a compact market town of 1451 acres and fringed with collieries, in the heart of industrial South Yorkshire. It is built for the most part on sandstone and gradually rising ground on the north side of the river Don which forms the Southern boundary of the Urban District. The chief occupations are Mining, Engineering and Printing.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District	1,451 acres.
Population	19,300
Population at census	15,856
Height above sea level	125 feet
Number of houses occupied	4,760
Average persons per house	4.05
Rateable Value	£96,072
Sum produced by a penny rate	£362:12:7d.
Rain fall for 1946	29.13 inches.
Number of days on which rain fell	183 days.
Mean temperature	50.F.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate Births	141	134	275
Illegitimate Births	12	16	28
	<u>153</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>303</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 Population 15.7

The statistics show a slight increase on the figures for 1945 - when there were a total of 297 births corresponding to a birth rate of 15.3.

DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Deaths registered in the District	73	62	135
Mexborough Residents dying outside	5	9	14
	<u>78</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>149</u>

These figures give a crude death-rate of 7.72 per 1,000 population.

The figures for 1945 were 197 deaths corresponding to a death rate of 10.2. Hence these figures show a rising population.

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	59.4
Cancer Death Rate	0.98
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	0.258

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Heart disease	21	13	34
Cancer	11	8	19
Senility	8	8	16
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	7	10
Prematurity	3	3	6
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Pneumonia all forms	7	4	11
Other Circulatory causes	-	6	6
Nephritis	1	1	2
Appendicitis	-	1	1
Peritonitis	1	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	4	5
Diabetes	2	2	4
Violence	4	2	6
Marasmus	1	-	1
Oedema	2	-	2
Gastric Ulcer	2	-	2
Uraemia	4	2	6
Toxaemia	-	2	2
Other defined diseases	3	4	7
	<u>78</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>149</u>

The nett total of 149 deaths of residents whether occurring within or without the District, was classified as to age as follows:-

18 died under twelve months, two between one & two years. one between five & ten years, one between ten and fifteen years, two between fifteen & twenty years, seven between twenty & thirty five years, eight between thirty five & forty years, thirty five between forty five & sixty years, and seventy four died at sixty five years and upwards.

There were no deaths from the Principal Zymotic Diseases.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

In 1946, eighteen infants died under one year of age giving an infantile mortality rate of 59.4

The corresponding figures for 1945 were fifteen deaths and a mortality rate of 50.5. An examination of the causes of death shows eight due to broncho-pneumonia and the rest to congenital debility and premature birth.

MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held in the Clinic in the Upper Market Place on Tuesday and Thursday Afternoons. Though the Centre is controlled by the West Riding County Council the Clinic is organised by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by two Health Visitors and the Ladies Committee. The building consists of two wooden structures, not in a satisfactory state of repair, but it is hoped soon to move to better premises in Adwick Road, formerly used as the War-time Nursery. Attendances at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre are on the increase and the figures for 1946 were:-

Children under one year.
3,590

Children one to five years.
2,001

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of notifications of infectious diseases received during the year.

Dysentery	3.
Whooping cough	42.
Diphtheria	10.
Scarlet Fever	14.
Pneumonia	19.
Puerperal Pyrexia	1.
Erysipelas	2.
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1.
Measles.	8
	<u>Total</u>
	<u>100</u>

The general health of the town has been good, and a feature of the notifiable diseases was the mildness of the cases. Of the ten cases of diphtheria, six were non-immunised, and of the remaining four, one had only received one injection. Thus, the value of diphtheria immunisation carried out during and prior to 1946 has shown its value.

The low figure for measles shows that this has not been a "measles" year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty two cases of Tuberculosis were notified, as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</u>	
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
13	7	Nil	2

The number on the register at the 31st December, 1946 were:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
67	106	36	31

There were five deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, one male and four females, and no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is under the control of the County Council, and the patients are seen on Mondays and Wednesdays by the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer and his Staff. There is close co-operation between the staff of the Dispensary and the staff of this Department.

POLIOMYELITIS.

There was no case of this disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria immunisation is carried out at a Special Clinic held on Friday afternoons in the Maternity & Child Welfare Centre in the Upper Market Place, under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health and in the Schools. The Council is very keen on Diphtheria Immunisation and has given wide publicity to it. There has been a good response from the parents and 662 children were fully immunised with three injections, 497 children were immunised in the Schools while 165 were immunised in the Clinic.

SCABIES.

Cases of Scabies were treated at a Social Clinic held on Wednesday afternoons in the war-time cleansing station in Victoria Road. This Clinic was run by the Medical Officer with the help of a part-time nurse.

Supplies of benzyl benzoate and medicinal soap were obtained through the Council Council.

Altogether, 56 cases, 26 males & 30 females received treatment. It was found that the patients responded well, and quick cures were evident.

WATER.

Town's water is obtained from the Ludwell Springs and a borehole at the Water Works adjoining Pitt Street. The supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Chlorination has been applied. Twenty seven samples, eighteen from "raw water" nine from the piped supply, were taken for bacteriological examination. The results showed thirteen to be in class one, four samples in class two, and one sample in class four. In cases where class two & four results were obtained, the m lns were flushed and repeat samples were found to be satisfactory. Four samples were submitted for chemical analysis, three from the piped supply and one from the "raw water". All these samples were found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT.

Twenty five visits were paid to Factories and three notices to remedy defects in sanitary conveniences were served.

MILK SUPPLY.

The four Cowkeepers in the District were paid frequent visits. One farm is producing Accredited Milk, while the other three premises produce ordinary milk. Samples taken during the year proved satisfactory. Alterations were carried out at one cowshed to bring it up to standard.

Number of Cowkeepers in the District	4.
Number of Cows in milk	53.
Number of Inspections made	52.
Number of Licences granted for retailing T.T milk	1.
Number of Licences granted for retailing Pasteurised milk	1
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	4.
Number of samples found good	4.
Number of Milk Retailers on Register	9.

T. LINDSAY MB.CHB.

Medical Officer of Health,

MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department.

To the Chairman & Members of the
MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during 1946.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

A total of 1,637 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector, and these were allocated as follows:-

<u>Nature of Inspections.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
Factories	32.
Bakehouses	14
Drainage	65
Offensive Trades	10
Common Lodging Houses	4
Temporary Dwellings	21
Rats & Mice	52
Shops	73
Infectious Diseases	63
Houses	1072
Slaughter Houses	88
Ice Cream Premises	12
Restaurants	10
Cowsheds, Dairies, & Milkshops.	44
Miscellaneous	77
	<u>1,637</u>

COMPLAINTS.

689 complaints were received at the office and these received attention. The majority of the complaints were concerning housing defects. Informal action was taken in each case, followed by formal action where necessary. At the year end, 32 complaints were outstanding.

NOTICES SERVED.

Number of informal written notices served requiring nuisances and defects to be remedied	642
Number complied with	608
Number of verbal notices given	86
Number complied with	80
Number of Statutory Notices served	39
Number complied with	39

HOUSING.

Housing work has taken up quite a good deal of time this year. There were many outstanding repairs needed owing to the comparatively few repairs during the war time years, and the fact that the town still has approximately 250 houses which were to have been scheduled for demolition in 1939, and 131 of these in the congested Roman Terrace area. These houses are almost beyond repair, and as fast as repairs are done, other repairs become necessary. The problem of the "bad" house will not be solved till demolition work is allowed to proceed. It was found that with the co-operation of local builders - quite a good deal of repair work was carried out, though often jobs were held up for want of materials, e.g. timber, coppers, ranges, etc.

Total number of houses inspected for defects (Public Health and Housing Acts)	892
Total defects found	1,402
Total defects remedied	1,347
Number of houses in the District	4,760

The following defects were remedied under the Public Health and Housing Acts:-

Roof repairs	181
Damp walls remedied	45
Windows repaired	35
New sinks	17
Plaster renewed	97
Coppers renewed	14
Eaves gutters renewed	47
Rain water pipes renewed	13
Floors repaired	14
Range repaired	100
Water in cellars remedied	20
Walls repaired	16
Sink pipes renewed	11
Doors repaired	11
New dustbins	527
W.Cs repaired	83
Smoke nuisances abated	7
Rat nuisances	36
Choked drains released	84

Overcrowding.

The problem of overcrowding has increased owing to an influx of people to work in essential industries, e.g. mining: and young married couples having to take residence with parents. The pre-war overcrowding survey is out of date, but has been amended in part where cases of overcrowding have come to light during housing inspections.

Tents, Vans, Sheds.

The number of van dwellings in the district decreased owing to the proprietors of travelling amusement fairs and stalls leaving the fairground site on which they were stationed during the war. Two sites were granted temporary licences for one van each.

Common Lodging Houses

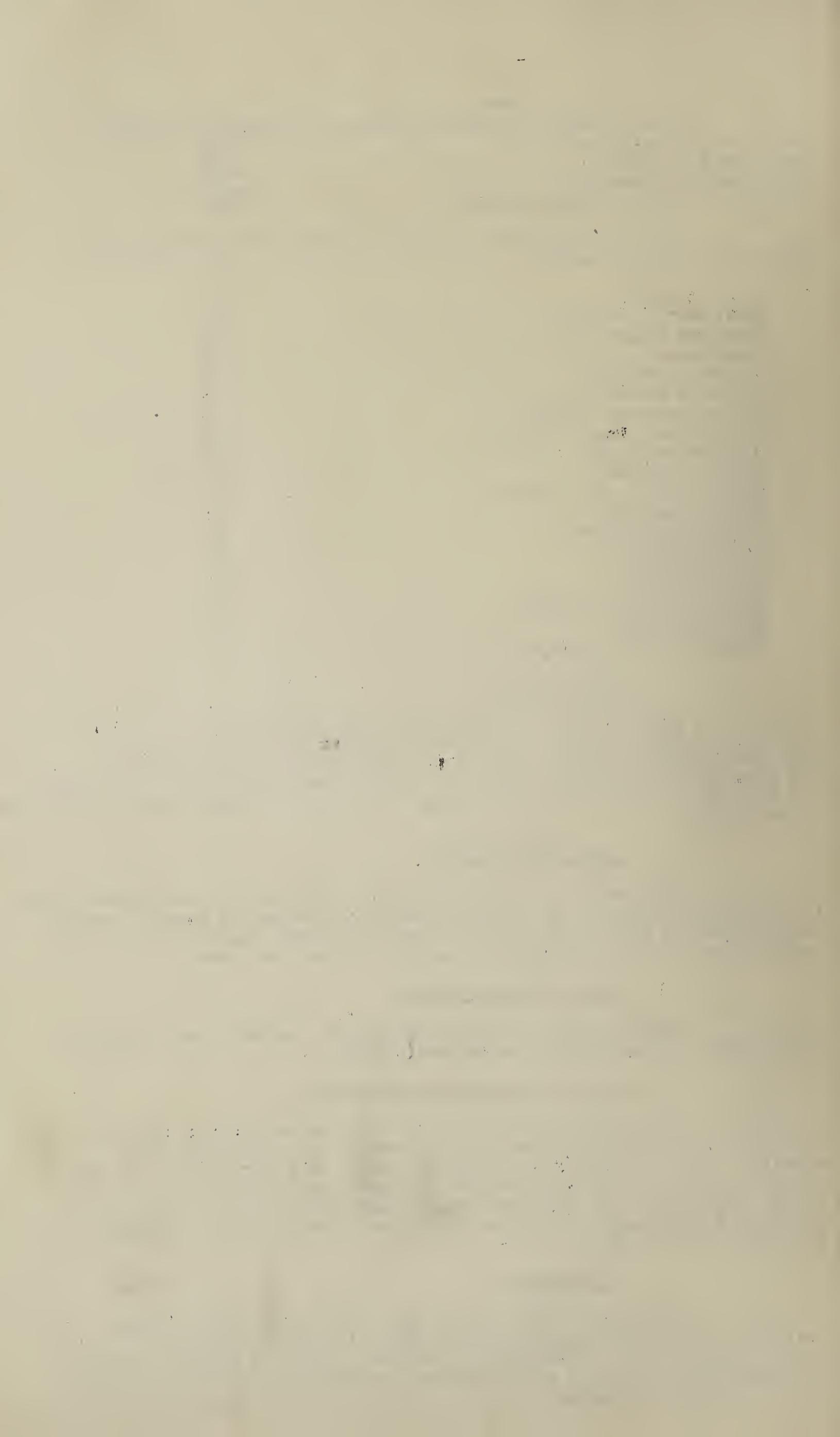
The one Common Lodging House in the area was inspected seven times, and was found to be well kept.

Dirty and Verminous Premises.

Two houses were found to be in an appalling condition of filth and neglect, and as no improvement was effected after warnings, Legal Action in co-operation with the N.S.P.C.C. was taken against the occupiers. Sentences of four and six months were given to the defendants. Forty four other houses were found to be bug infested and fumigated. Twelve houses were successfully treated for cockroach infestations.

Squatters.

Thirteen families of squatters moved into disused N.A.A.F.I. huts adjoining the Drill Hall, Highwoods Road, and eight families took possession of huts at a trainee miner's hostel. The Department has kept all the premises under observation from the point of view of health.



Rodent Control.

An extensive survey of the town was carried out and treatment given successfully in accordance with the Ministry of Food System. The rat population was found not to be a big one, there being only three major infestations.

No. of premises treated	346
No. of Baiting points	417

Atmospheric Pollution.

There has been a serious nuisance caused by sulphur fumes and grit from the new electricity generating station at the eastern end of the town. The generating plant consists of two 30,000 Kilowatt sets operated by four Stirling Water Tube Boilers mechanically stoked. The products of combustion are carried away by two steel chimneys about ninety feet above ground level and no method of washing flue gas has been installed. It is estimated that 208,000 tons of coal per annum containing 4,160 tons of sulphur are consumed and an average of 231 tons of sulphur dioxide per day are sent to the atmosphere. The matter was being taken up with the Yorkshire Electric Power Company, the Ministry of Fuel and Power and the Electric Commissioners at the end of the year.

Food Inspection.

Because of centralised slaughtering no premises in the district were licensed for the slaughter of animals for human consumption, but 93 inspections were made of cottager's pigs slaughter. Periodical visits were made to the meat receiving depot and weekly visits to wholesale grocers premises as well as shops. The following amounts of foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned:-

2. tins pears; 1 tin peaches; 32 tins pilchards; 112 tins milk; 53 tins beans; 16 tins apricots; 382 lbs jam; 13 lbs marmalade; 28 lbs lemon curd; 25 lbs prunes; 15 lbs dates; 2 tins spam; 15 tins peas; 7 tins turnips; 20 tins carrots; 15 lbs pears; 142 lbs apples; 1 pkt puffed wheat; 23 lbs 9 ozs Cheese; 10 tins Luncheon meat; 105 $\frac{1}{4}$ stones fish; 86 lbs kippers; 6 lbs crab; 22 lbs brawn; 3 tins spaghetti; 20 rabbits; 5 tins soup; 10 lbs brisket; 7,090 eggs; 4 lbs bacon; 13 lbs ham; 23 tins salmon; 4 tins sardines; 5 tins plums; 90 lbs plums; 1 bottle coffee; 24 tins M & V; 8 tins tomatoes; 1 steak & kidney pudding; 39 lbs flour; 1,285 lbs cake mixture; 3 tins sausages; 31 lbs sausages; 1 bottle bovril; 29 lbs 2 ozs beetroot; 28 lbs sauces; 27 lbs piccalilli; 103 lbs red cabbage.

Slaughter of Animals Act.

Humane slaughtering of all animals is in force in the district.

No. of slaughtering licences issued:-	8
---------------------------------------	---

Food Preparing Premises.

The following food preparing premises are registered with this authority:-

Bakehouses	4
Tripeboilers	2
Preparation & manufacture of sausages pressed, pickled or preserved foods	10
Fish Friers	23

Ice Cream

Ten premises were used for the sale of ice cream, most of which was wrapped

and of a well known manufacture, The ice cream of one street vendor from a neighbouring authority was found to be unsatisfactory and after approach from this department, manufacture ceased.

Public Cleansing.

A weekly collection of refuse was maintained as far as possible, though delays were experienced through shortage of labour and special salvage work. Three Karrier Bantam Refuse Collectors were in operation, and 203,654 visits were paid to bin premises. 3,494 loads of refuse were dealt with at the controlled tip.

Salvage.

The following quantities of waste materials collected by the department were sold:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Qrs</u>	<u>Lbs</u>
Waste paper	77	17	2	0
Cullet	16	0	0	0
Textiles	1	14	1	1
Scrap Metals		16	3	0
Lead			1	14
Bones	5	3	26	

Bottles & jars 1,019 Dozens

The income realised was £563 - 17 - 11d an increase on last year's figures.

Conclusion

The year has been a year of difficulty for the Public Health Department. The war left Mexborough as many other areas, with a large number of houses in need of repair, and the worst cases were given attention first. The shortage of materials and labour caused delays in effecting repairs, but very urgent work received attention in spite of this. It will not be possible for some time to carry out routine inspection of houses.

H. BREARLEY.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

